

# INFORMATION REPORT

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given for civil physicians in medical protection against biological warfare, chemical warfare, Air Force medicine, and the usual field surgery. The entire course lasted about two months and included the subjects discussed below.

## Biological Warfare

2. The course included lectures on bacteriology, diagnosis of infectious diseases, including typhus, cholera, plague, typhoid, group dysentery, and tularemia to which special attention was directed. Instruction was given on the prevention of infection, especially against the above diseases, which might be used in BW, and against parasitic diseases, such as are transmitted by lice. The methods taught for the prevention of the spread of epidemics were isolation of the sick, identification of the disease screening of carriers, and mass vaccination. Smallpox was the only disease against which the entire population was vaccinated. In case of an epidemic, mass vaccination for the specific disease was practiced.
3. In case of biological warfare, the medical authorities planned to send field laboratories to the affected areas with complete facilities for the identification of BW agents. I did not see any such laboratories.
4. The individual soldiers were furnished with packages containing bandages and a disinfectant. I did not know of any plans to furnish protective equipment to civilians.

## Chemical Warfare

5. The CW agents to which special attention was directed during the course included chlorine, tear gases, mustard gas, phosgene, and HCN. We saw two or three

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severe cases of mustard gas skin burns on men, but were not told where the action of chlorine, tear gas, hydrocyanic acid, and the delayed action of the gas was demonstrated on dogs and cats. The identification of these toxic materials in food, water, drugs, and air was taught. We were given samples of canisters and required to determine the toxic agent, as exercises. It was said of nerve gases and no mention was made of radiation. We shown impregnated clothing to protect against mustard gas but were not that the impregnating agent was.

6. There were demonstrations of special gas masks for soldiers, officers, civilians, children, and surgeons. The masks were disassembled and the construction explained. We were not, however, informed of the active agents in the canisters, except that charcoal and lime were used in some cases. The other ingredients were kept secret. One all-purpose gas mask was shown, the very existence of which was supposed to be top secret. We were told that it was 100% effective against any poison gas, but not how it was made. Others for special purposes were semi-secret. The face pieces and connecting hoses were rubber. The canisters were of metal.
7. The decontamination of soil against mustard gas was carried out by spraying with a solution of calcium hypochlorite. Clothing was decontaminated by exposure to high temperatures in chambers or by washing and boiling. Food cans and utensils of all sorts were decontaminated by washing and boiling. For exposure to hydrocyanic acid, if the victim were still alive, methylene blue was injected intravenously and artificial respiration applied.
8. Clothing and gloves supplied were made of wool. The high boots supplied were made of leather.

#### Air Force Medicine

9. Most of the studies dealing with Air Force medicine were given at the Civil Aeronautic Medical Research Institution, Tverskaya Street, Pimenovsky per., [small street], Moscow. One session was held in the Medical Department of the Military Academy of the Air Force, Petrovsky Park, Moscow. This institution had a large display of airplane models of all kinds. The head of both institutions was Vladimir Strelzoff, the biggest man in the field of aviation medicine in the USSR. I do not know what eventually became of him.
10. The subjects covered in the course included the physiology of body changes in low pressure chambers, especially the effects on the brain, vision, hearing, and circulation system; the effects of low temperatures; and especially the physiology of acceleration and deceleration. The men taking the course were compelled to submit to experiments on themselves in low pressure chambers corresponding to altitudes of 5000-6000 meters without oxygen masks. In these tests, handwriting before and during the test was compared, and psychological tests were given dealing with attention, distraction and counting.
11. There was also included work on the rapid and exact analysis of oxygen with special reference to impurities such as carbon monoxide and hydrocyanic acid in bulk supplies. All large cylinders of compressed oxygen were tested for these impurities before the gas was transferred to small cylinders for use by pilots. Strelzoff also showed a white tablet 3 inches in diameter which he called "condensed oxygen". This, he stated would give off gaseous oxygen when inserted in a releasing device. No details of composition or releasing action were given.
12. Also there were demonstrations of the Baranz chair and various types of parachutes released from a tower. Special clothing for pilots with interwoven electrical heating controlled by a pocket regulating switch was shown. There was also shown a suit which would maintain pressure on the body by means of fluid pumped through it by an external pump.

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